

**FLEIT KAIN
GIBBONS GUTMAN
BONGINI & BIANCO P.L.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

MIAMI - FORT LAUDERDALE - BOCA RATON

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601 BRICKELL KEY DRIVE
COURVOISIER CENTRE II SUITE 404
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33131

TELEPHONE: (305) 416-4490
FACSIMILE: (305) 416-4489
EFAX: (305) 675-2789

MFLEIT@FOCUSONIP.COM
WWW.FOCUSONIP.COM

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From: Martin Fleit Reference: USSN 09/610,142

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MESSAGE:

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE BELOW IDENTIFIED CASE

Inventor: Masahiro ITO

Confirmation No.:4378

Serial No.: 09/610,142

Art Unit: 3623

Filed : July 5, 2000

Examiner:Jeanty, Romain

For: A SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING DATA VIA THE INTERNET

Attorney Docket No: 719-X00-006

1. PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION.

FIRM NAME: FLEIT KAIN GIBBONS GUTMAN BONGINI & BIANCO P.L.

NAME OF ATTORNEY: MARTIN FLEIT

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY: *Martin Fleit by Thomas Zegby*

DATE: December 22, 2004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application : 09/610,142
Applicant : Masahiro Ito
Confirmation : 4378
Filed : July 5, 2000
TC/A.U. : 3623
Examiner : Jeanty, Romain
Docket No. : 719-X00-006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2004, Applicant seeks clarification of certain inconsistencies in the Office Action which make it impossible for the Applicant to formulate a full and proper response. Specifically, in section 5 of the Office Action (Note: the sections are mis-numbered in the Office Action; the section in question here is the second section 5, which should actually have been numbered as section 6), claims 6, 7 and 8 were rejected "...under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as anticipated by Walker et al "Walker" (U.S. 6,594,638)." The use of the term "anticipated" in combination with the reference to Section 103 renders the rejection ambiguous; it is not

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Preliminary Response dated December 22, 2004

known whether the Examiner views the claims in question as totally lacking in novelty and therefore fully anticipated by Walker, or whether he views them as reciting subject matter that is obvious in view of Walker. Compounding this problem is the fact that Walker is US Patent No. 6,616,458, not US Patent No. 6,594,638 as stated in the rejection. Thus, Applicant is uncertain whether the Examiner is basing the rejection on Walker et al (US No. 6,616,458), or on the previously cited Feldman reference (US No. 6,594,638).

Clarification of the above issues would be sincerely appreciated so that Applicant can file an appropriate and accurate response to the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a clarifying Office Action, and reset the period for response, bearing in mind that the new period for response cannot exceed the 6 month statutory limit.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Fleit (by Thomas Ziegler Reg. 27,988)
Martin Fleit, Reg. #16,900

Martin Fleit
FLEIT, KAIN, GIBBONS, GUTMAN, BONGINI & BIANCO
601 Brickell Key Drive Suite 404
Miami, Florida 33131
Tel: 305-416-4490; Fax: 305-416-4489
Email: MFleit@FocusOnIP.com